

[received by the International Bureau on 05 October 2004 (05.10.04);  
original claims 1-12 replaced by new claims 1-11. (2 pages)]

+ statement

1. A process for manufacturing a PTFE filament of the type comprising steps of extrusion, and, subsequently, stretching, heating and cutting PTFE, characterized by the following steps prior to extrusion:

providing a recipient having rigid side walls;

arranging a first mixture containing PTFE and a filler, and a second mixture containing PTFE, inside the recipient, side by side and aligned with the side walls; and

1 pressing the first and second mixtures in a direction parallel to the side walls to form a billet in which the first and second mixtures have different coefficients of friction;

1 wherein in the arranging step, the first and the second mixtures are inserted respectively into two portions of the recipient separated by a barrier, and, subsequently, the barrier is removed, enabling a part of the first mixture to contact a part of the second, and be arranged side by side and aligned with the side walls of the recipient.

2 2. A process according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that, in the step of arranging, the first mixture includes a pigment and the second mixture includes another pigment.

2 3. A PTFE filament obtained by the process defined in claim 1, characterized by comprising one side with a filler, so that this side has a different coefficient of friction in relation to the other side.

2 4. A PTFE filament according to claim 3, characterized by the fact that the first and the second mixtures have the same shrink properties.

2 5. A PTFE filament according to claim 3 or 4, characterized by further comprising a lubricant.

6. A PTFE filament according to any one of claims 3 to 5, characterized by the fact that each side has a different color.

3 7. A PTFE filament according to any one of claims 3 to 6, characterized by the fact that the filler comprises at least one of silica, alumina, mica and calcium carbonate.

8. A PTFE filament according to any one of claims 3 to 7, char-

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acterized by the fact that the quantity of filler in the respective side ranges from 1 to 25%.

- 5 9. A PTFE filament according to any one of claims 3 to 8, characterized by the fact that the quantity of pigment in at least one side ranges from 0.05% to 10%.

10. A PTFE filament according to any one of claims 3 to 9, characterized by the fact that said coefficient of friction in the side with filler ranges from 0.08 to 0.20 and the other side is less than 0.08.

- 10 11. A PTFE filament according to any one of claims 3 to 10, characterized by comprising a width ranging from 0.5 to 3.0 mm, a thickness ranging from 20 to 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , a density ranging from 0.7 to 2.2  $\text{g/cm}^3$ , a tensile strength ranging from 100 to 1100 MPa and a tenacity ranging from 2.0 to 6.0 cN/dtex.

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